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SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES.

Sphere of Governmental Action in South Australia.—At one of the recent sessions of the International Commercial Congress at the National Export Exposition in Philadelphia, Hon. John A. Cockburn, M. D., formerly Premier and for many years Minister of Education in South Australia, spoke at length of the development of the country he represented, and of the relation of the state to that development. Several things he said were stated with a local coloring not usually found in descriptions of the workings of Australian democracy, and are therefore worthy of repetition :

“ We do everything to encourage the formation of homes in South Australia. Our idea is that an agriculturist should be settled on his own land, not a tenant of any private landlord. The farmer can take his land from the state, either on right of purchase, for which he pays his purchase money, by small instalments extending over a period of years, or he can hold his land by what is known as a perpetual lien. He can at any time sell to any purchaser, and at the same time has this advantage, that he has not to pay down any amount of the purchase money before he can go on his farm. He can take his available capital and, instead of sinking it in the land he purchases, he can invest it in machines and many buildings in order to develop his property.

“ We are doing everything we can to settle labor. We have a system known as workmen’s blocks. The farmers employ very much labor. At harvest time they need much labor. So they want a number of laborers available at the harvest time, but there is no work to do during other portions of the year. Our idea is that the laborer may be settled by blocks of land, and a man may have a small holding of his own, to which he can put his spare time when there is a dearth of employment. So that instead of being idle, he can put in his spare time, when not employed, in building his cottage and improving his property. To that end the state advances sums of money for the building of cottages and for many improvements.

“ Our mild winter has advantages for our agriculturists. There is no vigorous winter. It is not necessary to provide winter housing of stock. We have no stables. The horses have merely a shed erected for them, under which they can shelter themselves during wet weather, and I will say that they are very much freer from disease living in this manner than when they are confined in closed stables.

“ South Australia is a great fruit-raising country, and I think that, in the course of time, it will be recognized as the greatest fruit-producing

country in the world. On the hills grow apples, pears and cherries, and they grow to a size almost unknown in their original habitats. On the plains peaches, apricots and grapes grow with extreme exuberance. One of our chief industries is that of wine! We make already two million gallons of wine annually. This wine is finding favorable markets in many points in the world, especially London. We have a dry climate, a matchless soil, and sunshine, but we lack one of the essential conditions—we have a deficiency of rainfall in many parts of South Australia. However, this is one of the conditions of plant growth that can be supplied by human ingenuity, and much has been done in our colony in the way of water conservation. We sink artesian wells, make dams, and in every way try to supplement this shortage of our water supply.

“Fortunately for our fruit industry, the trees are not so disastrously affected by the drought as the fruit here. Very little irrigation is needed for fruit. Our River Murray flows in a course of two hundred miles. Here is an opportunity which has been taken advantage of for supplying water to the arid districts. Some time ago two gentlemen by the name of Chaffy came from America—Canadians by birth—versed in all the recent methods of irrigation in use in the United States. They gave us most excellent ideas of the methods of irrigation. Previous to their arrival your methods in California and your states resembled the condition of our colonies. The Chaffy Brothers established an irrigation settlement in South Australia and another irrigation settlement in Victoria, and they gave us an object lesson in scientific cultivation of fruit trees by irrigation. Each tree being supplied with water, added to its height every year a certain number of inches or feet, which could be calculated with almost mathematical precision. In our irrigation colonies there is no room for a doubt as to the harvest. The water supply is constant, the sun is certain, the soil is fertile and the crop is sure. The government has lately made some interesting experiments with settlements, establishing what is known as village settlements, where there was a dearth of employment in the colonies. We assisted little colonies of workingmen to settle on the soil. They held their land in common, held all their irrigation machinery, pumping plant and means of production in common.

“Another interesting experiment in relation to the production of the soil, was made by the Agricultural Department a few years ago. A large portion of our fruit growers are not able to undertake the expense of sending their products to distant markets; the prices would be so prohibitory as to preclude them from the great markets of the world. Only the big men who could forward large quantities and secure the freight, insurance and disposal at the lowest possible prices

could export. The government has taken the place of the large dealer in this way. We have grouped together from all the various producers their little rivulets of produce. One man has boxes of fruit, another man a few score of lambs, another man has so many cwt. or tons of butter. Each of these little consignments is collected by the receiving depot in a large parcel. It is afterward forwarded at a minimum of expense. The most favorable arrangement is made for the shipment of parcels. Insurance is provided at the lowest cost and the small lots are put forward as a whole shipment by the department, sent to the hands of the agent-general, who makes arrangement for the sale of the products on the best conditions to the producer. So that all a farmer, all a fruit grower, has to do in South Australia, if he has a small consignment and wishes to try a chance in the markets of the world, is to write to the Agricultural Department; write that his goods have been forwarded to the depot; sometimes an advance of sixty per cent is made to him, in order to let him abide his time in patience. This was announced as an interference with private enterprise. The condition of the time must be solved for the time and according to the requirements of the case and so we think that, instead of interfering with private enterprise, we are assisting it by giving to small farmers and producers an opportunity to receive proper reward for their labor—we enable them to earn by honest industry the highest possible amount. The criticisms of the Agricultural Department have now ceased. Many of our most adverse critics are now our warmest supporters. The benefits have been shown. There is not the slightest doubt that time will exhibit a great advance. We have another way of assisting the producer. Formerly a farmer who wanted to raise a little money to buy fertilizers or machinery had to pay very high rates of interest. I have known as much as fifty per cent charged to a farmer for a little temporary accommodation. The state has, in the last few years, recognized that everything that will assist the producing power of the farmer is a benefit to the community, and we have established a state bank through which advances are made, and the farmers are enabled, then, to continue their holdings. Many will hold up their hands in horror at what the Australian Colonies do by means of the government. We look upon the government as not anything apart from the people, but as the people themselves. We regard the government merely as the directory, in which the citizen is a shareholder, and we believe that the feelings of the State are to do what is good for the community. Our statesmen have been noted in years past for their fertility in bringing forward measures which have proved useful, not only within our own territory, but adopted by the great portion of the civilized world.

"Then, we have also recently adopted a method of solving vexed questions regarding our public policy. We have adopted, as a practical expedient, the referring of any question in dispute to the people themselves for decision. They give their decision at the polls, and then participate in the machinery of legislation, and we find this to be of great benefit. It assures a speedy and easy mode of settling difficult questions, and it has this further effect, that it keeps the citizens to our colony constantly in touch with public questions, and gives each man and woman a direct force. Some time in 1894 I had the honor of introducing a bill which conferred a franchise upon the women of South Australia, and very well indeed it has worked. There is not a man or woman in South Australia who would ever venture the suggestion to recur to the former state of franchise. The women vote just as orderly and intelligently and as well as the men. It has led to no family disputes. The husband and wife drive to the polls together; they generally vote together and the same way, but it does not necessarily follow that the wife votes under the dictation of the husband. All that I have to say is that the experiment has been tried and proved successful for us, as in New Zealand. No one ever suggests adverting to the former state of things, and it is very likely that all of the colonies will adopt the method of franchise. The women have not only a vote, but are entitled to sit in parliament.

Boston Public Library.—A notable instance of the value of volunteer aid in the work of a public institution is that of a committee of women which has undertaken to read every work of current fiction in English under consideration for purchase by the Boston Public Library, and to report to the librarian certain desired information in regard to it—whether suitable for child or purely adult; whether historical or purely romantic, narrative, or dealing with some contemporary social problem; if historical, the period depicted; its merits and defects: as to accuracy (if historical), temper (if touching social problems), apparent sincerity (if treating religious problems), morality and style; and an outline of the plot sufficient to render intelligible the information described. Every new work of fiction in English is read and thus reported upon independently by two persons, and if their reports disagree, by a third. During the past year, 548 books were read and reported upon by the committee. These reports are of great service and have been made use of by other institutions. The committee does not select books, it merely furnishes information as a guide to the librarian and trustees in selection. Its opinion is only an element in the decision that controls, and the final decision frequently runs counter to it. The personnel of the committee changes constantly, that the variety of view may be greater and that merely

methodical and routine judgment may be avoided. The purpose is to secure the average instinctive judgment of the general public.

The International Congresses of the Exposition of 1900.—1. *Congress of Friendly and Provident Societies (Mutualité).* The first international congress of friendly and provident societies (*mutualité* and *Prévoyance*) will be held under the patronage of the French Government, in the series of official congresses of the Exposition of 1900. The date has been fixed at June 7, 1900. The congress will meet in the Exposition Palais des Congrès, and will last four days. It will be followed in the same month by three congresses on kindred subjects: Aid societies for laboring youths (June 11 to 13), cheap dwellings (June 18 to 21), and labor accidents and society insurance (June 25 to 30).

The mutual principle, as it is called, has made great progress in France, and its promoters believe that, in the midst of the present grave economical and social questions, it will prove a safeguard by leaving to the workingman both the merit of saving and the liberty of contributing, by an effort of his own free will, to the improvement of his lot by providing for the future. A national congress was held at the Sorbonne during the Exposition of 1889, and it is known that the principle of friendly and provident societies has been applied extensively abroad. But it is believed, that for the first time, the present congress will offer a means of international union and discussion of the application of the principal needs of modern society.

The work of the congress will be especially directed to societies of mutual aid under whatever name; the various objects which they may be made to comprise; the best methods of keeping their accounts; the relations existing between such aid and insurance; and, finally, the question of old age pensions.

The president of the organizing committee is M. Lourties, Senator and former Minister of Commerce and Industry. The secretary-general is M. Jules Arboux, 78 rue Bonaparte, Paris.

2. Congress of Colonial Sociology. An international congress of colonial sociology has been organized under the patronage of the French Government for the Exposition of 1900. It will occupy itself with the study of certain moral and social questions which pertain to colonization. The general subject of its program will be, the duties which colonial expansion imposes on colonizing powers, in colonies properly so called, with regard to the native population. This comprises the study of the following matters:

1. Political Condition of the Natives.—In what measure and under what conditions should the native administrative organization be maintained? How and by what means is the native population to be made

capable of defending its own rights and securing consideration of its grievances by the local authorities?

2. Juridical Condition of Natives.—Condition with regard to civil and criminal legislation and the administering of justice. Respect of property of natives and means of reconciling this respect with the needs of colonization.

3. Moral Condition of Natives.—Proper means to be taken for raising their intellectual and moral level.

4. Material Condition of Natives.—Measures fitted to insure the preservation of the race, to prevent its physical degeneracy and ameliorate its condition of existence.

There is scarcely need of insisting on the importance, from the colonial point of view, of the question of the political system to be followed with regard to native populations. There is not a single colonizing power which has not to face this problem. On the solution of this problem will depend, in great measure, the prosperity of the colonies that are founded. To organize, according to principles of justice and humanity, the judicial system to which native populations are to be subjected, to improve the moral and material conditions of their existence, this is the best means of founding solidly the authority of the mother country and of giving to colonies and to European capital those guarantees of order and security without which no one willingly engages in such distant enterprises. On the other hand, the conclusions to which the labors of the congress may lead up can only help to facilitate the civilizing mission which colonizing powers have undertaken toward the more or less inferior races subject to their domination.

The work which the congress has set before it is thus one of political wisdom as well as of moral importance. The sessions will be held from the 6th to the 11th of August, 1900, immediately after the meeting of the congress of colonial economy, thus allowing the members of each to take part in the other. The meetings will be held at the Hotel de la Société de Géographie. The membership card is ten francs; the committee on organization will gladly receive voluntary contributions from persons who may be interested in the work of the congress, without being able to attend the sittings. All communications concerning the congress should be addressed to the secretary-general, M. Lesaur, 4 Boulevard Raspail, Paris.

3. *Congress of Workingmen's Associations of Production.* The first international congress of workingmen's associations of production (co-operative manufacturing societies) will be held, under the patronage of the French Government, in the Palais des Congrès of the Exposition of 1900 during the three days beginning July 13. It

will also be the first reunion of the French associations, although their consulting chamber, which has taken the initiative of the congress, has been in existence since 1884. Out of 200 French societies and associations, 110 have already given their support to the congress. It appeals, in other countries, to government departments of labor, to co-operative federations, and to all co-operative production or manufacturing societies. The Palais des Congrès, in which the greater part of the hundred and more official congresses of the Exposition are to be held, is being constructed by ten of these associations in Paris, which are proud to have been awarded the contract in competition with individual contractors.

The congress will receive as members either the delegates of workmen's associations of production, or individual members when duly accredited. Ladies are admitted as active members. The language of the congress will be French, but English and German may also be used. The subscription fee, as for the other co-operative congresses, is three francs. National reports and communications showing the character of the work in different countries are desired; they must be presented at least three months before the opening of the congress.

In the series of five co-operative congresses, which are to follow one after the other in order to allow the members to take part in all, the congress of production associations comes second. Until now, there have been no international relations between the French and American societies.

The work of the congress will be divided under three heads:

1. The philosophy of co-operation, its roots, ideals, moral tendencies—human solidarity, association of workmen without reference to religion or politics.
2. Co-operation from the industrial point of view (the main work of the congress.)
3. Relations of production associations with supply societies; trades unions, etc., international relations.

The secretary-general of the committee of organization is M. A. Vila, secretaire de la chambre consultative des Associations ouvrières de production de France, 23 boulevard Saint-Martin, Paris.

4. *Congress of Profit Sharing.* An International congress for the study and discussion of questions relating to a profit sharing is to be held, under the patronage of the French Government, in the Palais des Congrès, during the four days beginning with the 15th of July, 1900. The congress is organized by the French society for the study of profit-sharing, and is limited to members of similar societies, to employers, managers, and assistants in establishments practicing

profit-sharing, and to delegates from the employees of such establishments. The congress corresponds with the second division of Class No. 102 of the Exposition itself (houses practicing profit-sharing), to which a retrospective exhibit of progress during the past century is attached. The following questions will be considered :

1. Rate or method of determining share of employees in profit.
2. Methods of sharing, *pro rata*, salaries or otherwise.
3. Use of sums resulting, money payments ; constitution of reserve capital or annuity by whole or part of profit shared ; transference to shares in property of company ; constitution of collection fund for aid, provident purposes, pensions, etc.
4. Settling of claims, with or without forfeit clause ; conditions of age and service.
5. Management of Funds—Product of profit-sharing in accounts current of house ; constitution of separate form of government obligations, or other safe investments ; deposit with national pension bank, with insurance companies or others.
6. Checking of Accounts—Contrary stipulation ; auditing by expert as arbiter.
7. Consulting committees, for the purpose of leading employees to take part in management of interests shared.
8. Material and moral results of profit-sharing.

To those questions will be added a full report on the present conditions of the historic method of leasing land on shares.

In general, the program of the congress has for its object to throw light on the essential principles of profit-sharing and, especially, on the foundations of what is called "contractual" profit-sharing, and on the best methods of using the share of profits turned over to employees. The congress will aim at popularizing the results of practical study of the questions raised by sharing profits with workmen and employees, considered in itself as it exists in proprietary establishments, stock companies, or co-operative associations of every kind, and also in its relations with the principles and facts of remuneration for labor. It appeals to the friends of profit-sharing in all the countries of the world, in order to succeed in gathering together the experiments made in houses and companies of every kind which employ workmen or others under whatever conditions—simply for wages, or for wages' share in profits, or in the case of associations, with workmen holding stock or simply helpers paid by wages. The organizers of the congress desire to give publicity to a system of remunerating labor which, under normal conditions, seems to be at once conformable to justice and calculated to unite more closely the interests of capital and labor. Like the other of the series of

co-operative congresses to be held consecutively during the Exposition, the congress of profit-sharing will sum up its work in the form of resolutions, which will have the weight of its authority. The president of the congress is M. Charles Robert, 15 rue de la Banque, the secretary general, M. Albert Trombert, Librairie a l'Imprimerie Chaix, 182 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis, Paris.

President Eliot on Higher Commercial Education.—The following extracts from a notable utterance by the president of Harvard, delivered at one of the sessions of the International Commercial Congress, indicate the general trend of thought in the best educational circles on the vexed question of what constitutes a suitable training for future business men in a democracy:

"I ask your attention for a few moments to the chief features of a commercial education capable of preparing men and women for much more than clerical service and much more than narrow retail trading. An indispensable element in the training I have in view is a sound secondary education; this is, an education in a first-rate school, public, endowed, or private, which occupies the whole school time of the pupil from thirteen or fourteen till eighteen years of age. This secondary education should include the modern languages—an essential part of a good preparation for the higher walks of business life. It may or may not include Latin or Latin and Greek. Thus the German non-classical secondary education is a very substantial preparation for business life, although it includes no technical subjects whatever. It deals with modern languages, including the native tongue, the elementary mathematics, history and science both pure and applied. For international commercial life in English-speaking countries a good knowledge of three languages besides English is desirable—namely, French, German and Spanish. A reading knowledge of the languages will ordinarily suffice for principals, but for traveling agents, or agents resident abroad, a speaking knowledge of at least two of these languages is desirable. This knowledge should be acquired at the secondary school.

"Let us imagine a boy equipped at eighteen with these broad, fundamental acquisitions, and let us then ask ourselves what additional subjects should be treated in an upper commercial school. The following list of subjects is by no means complete, but may serve to give a fair idea of the diversity and difficulty of the subjects appropriate to superior commercial education: Economics, statistics, banking, currency, exchange, arbitrage, insurance, government tariffs, transportation by land and water, commercial geography, climates, ethnology, commercial products by region and by nationality or race, consumption by region and by race, maritime legislation, blockade rights, neutrals'

rights, commercial law, industrial combinations of capital, labor unions and—if I may use a new but convenient word—financing new undertakings. Some of these subjects are already taught elaborately in universities, and the elements and general principles of all of them can be taught systematically to groups of pupils and enforced by examples and problems just as well as styles in architecture, rules of evidence in law, or the diagnostic value of blood examinations in medicine, are now taught and enforced in special schools. That a given subject has practical applications, and is to be really mastered only by much practice, is no reason why it should not be taught systematically in its elements by teachers skilled in expounding principles and guiding practice.

“It is obvious from the mere enumeration of these subjects that no young man could master any large proportion of the list in two or three years, which might wisely be allotted to such studies. A system of choice among these studies would, therefore, have to prevail in any well-conducted commercial school. The variety of business occupations in the modern world is immense, some of them being very broad, and others very narrow, and for these various occupations widely different bodies of information or knowledge are needed. We can classify these occupations, and say that some of them are trade, others are manufacturing and others are transportation ; but there are many business occupations which are concerned with all these three groups, or with portions of them all. The youth who enters the upper commercial school knowing what the business is which he is subsequently to pursue would have sure guidance in the selection of his studies ; the youth who had no such knowledge would do well to acquaint himself with the general principles of the most fundamental subjects. . . .

“To deny that young men may be systematically trained for industry and commerce is to assert that industry and commerce are merely imitative arts, to be acquired only by seeing other people do the tricks and then practicing them. The gipsy in Asia Minor makes iron nails one at a time with a hammer on an anvil, just as his ancestors did before him for hundreds of years. I have seen him doing it ; but I also observed that his small children were stark naked and that his larger ones had only one garment. In short, he was not making much of a living. Moreover, not one-thousandth part of the nails we use in this country could possibly be made in that way. In industry and commerce all things are becoming new and new methods of preparing young men for these occupations must be invented with discriminating foresight, established with prudence, and maintained with liberality.”